




the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief . . . .” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Plaintiff should state precisely whom he seeks to name as defendants, connect defendants with the conduct that resulted in the alleged constitutional violations, and avoid unnecessary details. Plaintiff should briefly mention specific events and correlating dates which are the basis for suit and the constitutional rights purportedly violated. Any amended complaint will be subject to initial review, see 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, and to severance of claims, if necessary, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 18(a), 20(a)(2).

To the extent plaintiff seeks appointment of counsel, see [D.E. 13], no right to counsel exists in civil cases absent “exceptional circumstances.” Whisenant v. Yuam, 739 F.2d 160, 163 (4th Cir. 1984), abrogated in part on other grounds by Mallard v. U.S. Dist. Court, 490 U.S. 296 (1989); see also Cook v. Bounds, 518 F.2d 779, 780 (4th Cir. 1975). The existence of exceptional circumstances “hinges on [the] characteristics of the claim and the litigant.” Whisenant, 739 F.2d at 163. The facts of this case and plaintiff’s abilities do not present the requisite exceptional circumstances.

In sum, the court: DENIES plaintiff’s request for appointment of counsel [D.E. 13]; GRANTS plaintiff’s motion to amend [D.E. 10]; and DIRECTS the clerk to send plaintiff forms to file an amended complaint. Plaintiff shall file his amended complaint no later than February 7, 2020. The court further WARNS plaintiff that failure file an amended complaint in the time permitted by this order may result in the dismissal of this action without prejudice for failure to prosecute.

SO ORDERED, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.

  
TERRENCE W. BOYLE  
Chief United States District Judge